Profits shown by departments of Super Bazar

733. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of departments of Super Bazar which have shown profits during the last three years and the amount thereof, year-wise.

(b) which of the above departments were showing losses in the immediately preceding four years and the amount of losses, year-wise;

(c) what were the measures taken by Super Bazar to cross the loss line;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the profits shown are not real profits but are the result of doctoring the balance sheets and whether Government propose to scrutinise the balance sheets; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) and (b) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that the prevailing accounting system of Super Bazar does not facilitate working out department-wise profitability. However, the Super Bazar as a whole is running in profit continuously since 1972-73.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Demand of coal for power plants

734. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the demand of coal received from each coalbased power plant annually during the last three years;

(b) the actual suply of coal made to each coal-based power plant during these years;

(c) the steps taken to ensure the allotment of coal to each coal-based power plant according to their requirement; and

(d) the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The demand of coal, as assessed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for each of the coal based power stations in the country and despatch of coal during each of the last three years is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 175, annexure No. 17]

(c) and (d) The allotment of coal for each coal based power plant is given by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) for thermal power stations based on the recommendations of the CEA and within the overall constraints of availability, transportation, unloading facility of the power station and timely payment for coal supplies.

Setting up of Brand Promotion Fund

735. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the setting up of a Rs. 120 crore Brand Promotion Fund for exports;

(b) if so, when the clearance of the Finance Ministry was given; who will manage the fund and ensure that it is not used for any direct expenses and administrative purposes; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has decided not to continue a similar fund for India despite its huge success in marketing Indian goods abroad on indirect terms; if so, whether Government would be able to achieve the export target of $ 1 billion by the end of the century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government have, in principle, approved the proposal to set up the India Brand Promotion Fund. However, no specific amount has been earmarked.

(b) and (c) Details regarding the constitution of Fund and its management and also the scope and nature of activities to be covered under the Fund are yet to be worked out. World Bank has no role to play under this Fund.

Central Government Projects Running Behind Schedule

736. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government project in large number are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a steep escalation of the cost of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to complete such projects without cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes Sir, as on 1.7.95 out of 383 projects on the monitor of Department of Programme Implementation 213 projects were running behind schedule with reference to their latest approved schedule.

(b) The extent of delay varied from project to project and it ranges between 1-161 months. The main reasons for the delay are land acquisition and related problems of rehabilitation, fund constraints and delay in supply of equipment, etc.

(c) Yes Sir, out of 383 projects 146 projects have reported cost escalation.

(d) The Overall cost escalation of 146 projects was 59.6% with reference to the latest approved cost estimates. The main reasons for the cost escalation are the time overrun, inflation, exchange rate variation and under estimation/omission in the origional estimates of the projects. The various steps taken by the Government to improve the project implementation of the project are indicated in Statement laid on the table of the House.

Statement

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STREAMLINE FOR PREPARING THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

(i) Two-stage project approval to assure adequate preparation, environmental and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage II.

(ii) Simplified procedures for approval of revised cost estimates under which the cost escalation on account of reasons beyond the control of an enterprise, within the original gestation period, is to be sanctioned by the Administrative Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission. Only revised cost estimates exceeding 5% of the approved cost estimates on account of factors other than those indicated above are to be submitted to the Public Investment Board/Cabinet Committees on Economic Affairs for approval.

(iii) Intensive monitoring of projects at various levels. This enables the monitoring agencies to